AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 15, said indicator comprising a slider and a viewing window associated with the housing, said slider shiftably mounted on said housing, and shifted by urging of said needle protection sleeve.

19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said indicator provides a first signal when said needle protection sleeve is in the distal position and a second signal as long as said needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

20-24 (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for subcutaneous administration of an injectable product comprising:

an injection device comprising a container holder, a container and a needle connected to the container;

an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve connected to a proximal portion of the container, said inner and outer sleeves generally concentric having a space therebetween;

a needle protection sleeve generally between the inner and outer sleeves and shiftable along a length of travel from a proximal position in which it extends beyond the needle to a distal position between the inner and outer sleeves; and

a position indicator comprising: a slider, a mark applied to the slider, and a window in the outer sleeve.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the slider is generally moveable in conjunction with the needle protection sleeve and carries the mark, the slider having one

position generally adjacent to a stop element and a second position generally adjacent to an end of the inner sleeve, the slider being urged into the second position by a return element.

27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein when the needle protection sleeve is in its distal position, the mark is visible through the window.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for subcutaneous injection ~~administration~~ of an injectable product comprising:

an injection device comprising a container holder, a container and a needle, the container and the needle being connected to the container holder;

an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve connected to a proximal portion of the container, the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve being generally concentric;

a needle protection sleeve shiftable in a shifting direction along a length of travel from a proximal position extending beyond the needle to a distal position where it is positioned generally between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve; and

an indicator which indicates to the user of the apparatus, during insertion of the needle, that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position, the indicator comprising a circuit, the circuit being positionable between an open position and a closed position, one of the closed position or the open position indicating that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the circuit further includes a switch comprising first and second switching elements.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the circuit is in the open position when the switch is in an open position, the switch being in an open position when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position, and wherein the circuit is in the closed position when the switch is in a closed position, the switch being in a closed position when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the first switching element is a permanent magnet.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the second switching element is a tab of electrically conductive material.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further including a mounting structure, wherein the second switching element is arranged on the mounting structure and the mounting structure extends in the shifting direction of the needle protection sleeve.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the first switching element is provided on an outer shell surface area of the needle protection sleeve.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the second switching element extends opposite the first switching element in the shifting direction of the needle protection sleeve.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the first switching element and the second switching element form a Hall generator.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the circuit further comprises a luminous element.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the circuit further includes a switch comprising first and second switching elements.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the circuit is in the open position when the switch is in an open position, the switch being in an open position when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position, and wherein the circuit is in the closed position when the switch is in a closed position, the switch being in a closed position when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position, and wherein the luminous element is off when the switch is in the open position and the luminous element is on when the switch is in the closed position.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the circuit is in the open position when the switch is in an open position, the switch being in an open position when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position, and wherein the circuit is in the closed position when the switch is in a closed position, the switch being in a closed position when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position, and wherein the luminous element is off when the switch is in the closed position and the luminous element is on when the switch is in the open position.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the luminous element is a light emitting diode and wherein, in the closed position, the circuit causes the light emitting diode to illuminate.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the luminous element is a light emitting diode and wherein, in the open position, the circuit causes the light emitting diode to illuminate.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the luminous element is lit when the circuit is in the closed position.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, further including a second circuit and wherein the luminous element is two-colored.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the first circuit is in the open position when the second circuit is in a closed position and wherein the first circuit is in the closed position when the second circuit is an open position, the luminous element being one color when the first circuit is in the closed position and being a second color when the second circuit is in the closed position.

46. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for subcutaneous injection ~~administration~~ of an injectable product comprising:

an injection device comprising a container holder, a container and a needle connected to the container holder;

an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve connected to a proximal portion of the container, the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve being generally concentric;

a needle protection sleeve shiftable in a shifting direction along a length of travel from a proximal position extending beyond the needle to a distal position where it is positioned generally between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve; and

an electric circuit including a switch comprising a first switching element carried by the needle protection sleeve and a second switching element positioned generally opposite the first switching element and extending along the shifting direction of the needle protection sleeve; wherein the electric circuit forms an indicator which indicates to the user of the apparatus, during insertion of the needle, that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the circuit is opened when the switch is in an open position, the switch being in an open position when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position, and wherein the circuit is closed when the switch is in a closed position, the switch being in a closed position when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position when it has been moved from its proximal position to an extent that the needle extends from the needle protection sleeve sufficiently to attain a desired pricking depth for an injection.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the circuit further includes a luminous element.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the circuit is opened when the switch is in an open position, the switch being in an open position when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position, and wherein the circuit is closed when the switch is in a closed position, the switch being in a closed position when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal

position, and wherein the luminous element is off when the switch is in the open position and the luminous element is on when the switch is in the closed position.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the circuit is opened when the switch is in an open position, the switch being in an open position when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position, and wherein the circuit is closed when the switch is in a closed position, the switch being in a closed position when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position, and wherein the luminous element is off when the switch is in the closed position and the luminous element is on when the switch is in the open position.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the luminous element is a light emitting diode.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the luminous element is a two-color element, the luminous element illuminating to indicate the position of the needle protection sleeve, a first color of the two-color element indicating that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position and a second color of the two-color element indicating that the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the circuit comprises two electric circuits, one for each color, which are open or closed alternatively and depending on the position of the needle protection sleeve.

55. (Presently Amended) An apparatus for subcutaneous self-administration of an injectable product comprising:

a housing;

a receiving sleeve coupled with the housing;

an injection needle protruding beyond the housing;

a needle protection sleeve generally surrounding the injection needle, the needle protection sleeve being connected to the housing and slideable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein in the distal position the injection needle protrudes beyond the needle

protection sleeve and the needle protection sleeve is disposed within an interior of the receiving sleeve such that a user of the apparatus cannot view the needle entering and penetrating tissue and cannot gauge the relative position of the needle by monitoring the relative movement of a rear portion of the needle protection sleeve, and wherein in the proximal position the injection needle does not protrude beyond the needle protection sleeve; and

an indicator which visibly indicates to the user of the apparatus that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position during insertion of the injection needle for administration of the injectable product.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the indicator comprises a circuit having a luminous element, the circuit being positionable between an open position and a closed position, the closed position indicating that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the indicator comprises a circuit having a switch having an open position and a closed position, wherein the switch is contactless, the circuit being closed when the switch is in the closed position and the circuit being opened when the switch is in the opened position.

58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the indicator provides a first signal when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position and a second signal when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

59. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the needle protection sleeve actuates the indicator.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 59, further comprising a window on the housing, wherein the indicator comprises a slider including an optical marker visible through the window when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the slider is slideable in a shifting direction.

62. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein movement of the needle protection sleeve from the proximal position to the distal position slides the slider in the shifting direction.

63. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the slider further includes a second optical marker that indicates when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

64. (Presently Amended) An apparatus for subcutaneous self-administration of an injectable product comprising:

a housing;

a receiving sleeve coupled with the housing;

an injection needle protruding beyond the housing;

a needle protection sleeve generally surrounding the injection needle, the needle protection sleeve being connected to the housing and slideable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein in the distal position the injection needle protrudes beyond the needle protection sleeve and the needle protection sleeve is disposed within an interior of the receiving sleeve such that a user of the apparatus cannot view the needle entering and penetrating tissue and cannot gauge the relative position of the needle by monitoring the relative movement of a rear portion of the needle protection sleeve, and wherein in the proximal position the injection needle does not protrude beyond the needle protection sleeve; and

an indicator which indicates to the user that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position, the indicator being formed as a marking that is visible when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position <u>during insertion of the injection needle for administration of the injectable product</u> but is substantially not visible when the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further including a window in the housing, the marking being visible through the window when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for subcutaneous self-administration of an injectable product comprising:

a housing;

a receiving sleeve coupled with the housing;

an injection needle protruding beyond the housing;

a needle protection sleeve generally surrounding the injection needle, the needle protection sleeve being connected to the housing and slideable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein in the distal position the injection needle protrudes beyond the needle protection sleeve and the needle protection sleeve is disposed within an interior of the receiving sleeve such that a user of the apparatus cannot view the needle entering and penetrating tissue and cannot gauge the relative position of the needle by monitoring the relative movement of a rear portion of the needle protection sleeve, and wherein in the proximal position the injection needle does not protrude beyond the needle protection sleeve; and

an indicator that audibly indicates to the user that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position during insertion of the needle for administration of the injectable product.

67. (Presently Amended) An apparatus for subcutaneous self-administration of an injectable product comprising:

a housing;

a receiving sleeve coupled with the housing;

an injection needle protruding beyond the housing;

a needle protection sleeve generally surrounding the injection needle, the needle protection sleeve being connected to the housing and slideable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein in the distal position the injection needle protrudes beyond the needle protection sleeve and the needle protection sleeve is disposed within an interior of the receiving sleeve such that a user of the apparatus cannot view the needle entering and penetrating tissue and cannot gauge the relative position of the needle by monitoring the relative movement of a rear portion of the needle protection sleeve, and wherein in the proximal position the injection needle does not protrude beyond the needle protection sleeve; and

an active indicator for signaling to the user that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position during insertion of the injection needle for administration of the injectable product.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the active indicator audibly signals to the user that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the active indicator visibly signals to the user that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

70. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 69, wherein the active indicator comprises a circuit, the circuit being positionable between an open position and a closed position, the closed position indicating that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the circuit includes a luminous element, the luminous element being illuminated when the circuit is in the closed position.

72. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 69, further comprising a window on the housing, wherein the indicator comprises a slider including an optical marker visible through the window when the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the slider is slideable in a shifting direction.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 73, wherein movement of the needle protection sleeve from the proximal position to the distal position slides the slider in the shifting direction.

75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the needle protection sleeve actuates the indicator.